DOs, DON'Ts, and GESTURES

to familiarize you with local behaviors (DOs, DON’Ts, and Gestures) so that you can avoid misunderstandings and build trust by showing that you understand the culture.

Do

- Show respect to elderly people
- Shake hands with men to show friendliness
- Greet/Talk to men

Do

- Show respect at religiou
- Respect religious leader
- Treat tribe leaders with deference
- Facilitate Friday ceremonies

- Eat food if offered, even if it seems unappealing
- Share food with locals , it gives you security

Do

- Rub a child’s head to show friendliness
- Talk to and play with children

Do

- Show sympathy at funerals
- Knock on doors before entering
- Talk to the man, rather than the woman if you see a couple together

Don'ts

- Don’t step on a grave in a cemetery
- Don’t discuss religious differences
- Don’t enter a mosque wearing your shoes
- Don’t touch holy books

Don'ts

- Don’t appear topless in the public

- Don’t talk as if your culture is better than theirs; cultures are just different

Don'ts

- Don’t leave the guest room when visiting a house, stay in the guest room

- Don’t commit any act that might cause resentment like:

  - cutting a tree

  -throwing trash in a river

  -spoiling a water well

Don'ts

- Don’t insult a man in front of his wife and family.
- Don’t misunderstand same sex kissing
- Don’t drink alcoholic drinks in the public

Don'ts

- Don’t look at or talk to women who are alone (if it can be avoided).
- Don’t kiss or hug a woman unless invited

- Don’t shake the hand of a woman unless she initiates.
- Don’t be insulted if a woman doesn’t shake your hand.

Don'ts

- Don’t tell a woman how attractive she is.
- Don’t tell a man how beautiful his female family members are.
- Don’t offer or receive food/drinks with the LEFT hand.

Gestures

Don’t use gestures that might be insulting

AMERICA: “OK”; “Good

IRAQ: “I’ll <u>get</u> you later” (meaning is menacing)

IRAQ: “F… You!”

AMERICA: Childish for "I don't like you."

IRAQ: Childish for "I don't like you."

IRAQ: “F… You!”

AMERICA: “I got your nose” game played with

IRAQ: “F…”

AMERICA: normal gesture used

IRAQ: perceived as rude and threatening

RUDE .....

محمود ناصر ابو عامود

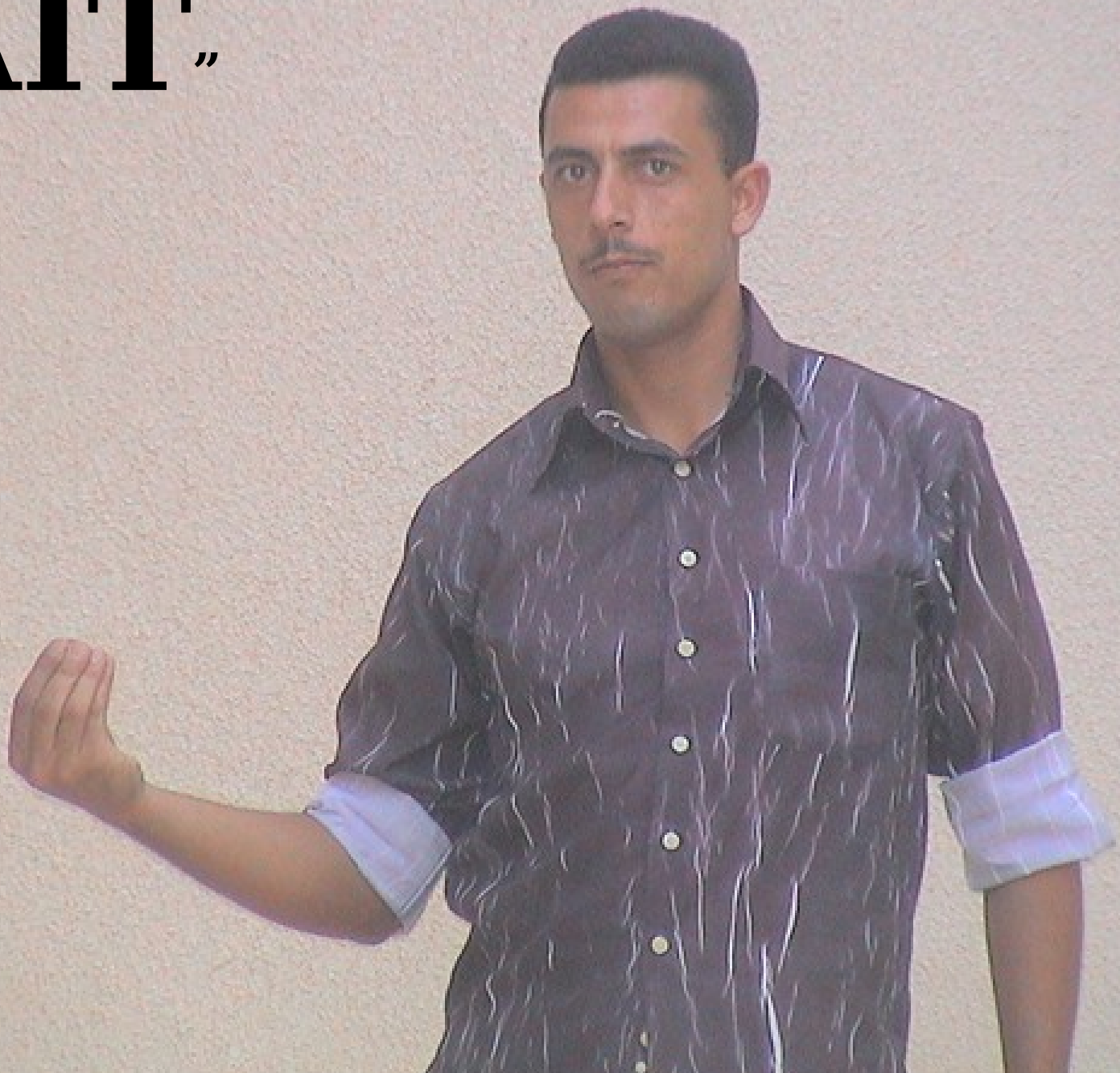
Gestures

Can help you communicate positive information

AMERICA AND IRAQ: “I DON’T KNOW.”

AMERICA: “STOP” NOT UNDERSTOOD

“WAIT”



BEGGING …PLEASE

NORMAL

PEOPLE

(NOT GAYS)

Be aware of the gestures Iraqi people use and their meanings

HAND KISSING

**IRAQ: GREETING A WOMAN: BECAUSE OF MODES
MAY NOT SHAKE YOUR HAND, BUT PUT HER HANI
HER HEART INSTEAD. YOU THEN PUT YOUR HANI
YOUR HEART TOO.**

IRAQ: IF YOU MAKE A REQUEST FROM SOMEONE HE MAY RESPOND BY TOUCHING HIS RIGHT HAN TO HIS HEAD. THIS INDICATES "ALA RA'ASI." OR MY HEAD I WILL DO WHAT YOU ARE REQUESTING

IRAQ: “COME HERE.” (polite)

HOW TO: Right hand, palm down, move fingers back and forth

REMEMBER

Understanding of **DOs** and **DON'Ts**,
and
proper use of **Gestures** shows knowledge and respect for Iraqi culture.

This builds TRUST.